13 REPORT WRITING AND COURT TESTIMONY

13.1 Objectives

13.1.1 To understand the elements of writing a clear and understandable report concerning Bloodstain Pattern Analysis.

13.1.2 To understand how to clearly, accurately and understandably present technical Bloodstain Pattern testimony.

13.2 Methods of Instruction

13.2.1 Lecture and Discussion

13.2.2 Review of Training Tools/Report Writing

13.2.2.1 MAFS Bloodstain Workshop Outline

13.2.2.2 Several DFS Reports

13.2.3 Review of Training Tools/Court Testimony

13.2.3.1 MAFS Bloodstain Workshop Outline

13.2.3.2 DFS Transcripts, Notes, and Report of Margie Harris' cases C98-20, T95-7788, and C97-6481

13.2.3.3 Paul Kirk Transcript from the Sam Sheppard case

13.2.3.4 Police Science Legal Abstracts and Notes-Scientific Evidence in the Sheppard case

13.2.3.5 Bevel, T. and Gardner, R., "The Bloodstain Pattern Lab Manual" –reprint

13.2.3.6 Michigan v. Budzyn

13.2.3.7 Court decision of the admissibility of bloodstain testimony from Norman Reeves

13.2.4 Assignment and Evaluation

13.2.4.1 The student is provided with the following: (1) a transcript of Paul Kirk's testimony in the Sam Sheppard case; (2) a legal abstract in reference to the scientific evidence in the Sheppard case; (3) Norman Reese's testimony admission challenge; (4) general articles referencing court preparation; (5) Michigan v. Budzyn case information from the INTERNET reference opposing bloodstain expert opinions; (6) Margie Harris' testimony transcript, certificate of analysis, and notes from DFS#C98-20; (7) testimony transcript, certificate of analysis and notes from DFS#C97-6481; (8) testimony transcript, certificate of analysis, and notes from DFS # T95-7788. The trainee will review all this material in preparation for the following exercise.

Perform the two exercises from the Bloodstain Examiner's Seminar 1999 (to be provided to the trainee). Write extensive notes on each pattern. Include range of stain sizes, overall pattern distribution size, distance between stains distribution, absence or presence of stain shape differences, the continuity or chaotic nature of the stain distribution within the pattern, and if the pattern is "consistent with" or "characteristic of" a particular category. The trainee will write a certificate of analysis which includes all nine (9) patterns.

The next step is to prepare a list of questions as if the defense attorney will challenge the certificate of analysis and your bloodstain testimony in a court of law.

13.2.4.2   LIMS exercise

13.2.4.2.1 Go into the LIMS training environment. Once in the training environment – enter the nine posters as evidence to create information for the certificate of analysis. Use Margie Harris as the submitting/investigating officer, Kamico Seals as the victim, and Dan Grinnan as the suspect.

This process to write a certificate of analysis (aka report writing) will acquaint the trainee with the process to write a report and the functions of the LIMS.

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